

HOUSE BILL NO. 249

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES GROH, Himschoot, Rauscher, Shaw

Introduced: 1/16/24

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act creating the military and veteran family help desk in the Department of**
2 **Military and Veterans' Affairs; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 44.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 44.35.025. Military and veteran family help desk.** (a) The military and
6 veteran family help desk is created in the Department of Military and Veterans'
7 Affairs.

8 (b) The military and veteran family help desk shall

9 (1) conduct outreach to and advocate on behalf of military members,
10 veterans, and their families;

11 (2) provide direct assistance and information about state services to
12 military members, veterans, and their families;

13 (3) provide information about state statutes and regulations to military
14 members, veterans, and their families;

1 (4) research issues military members, veterans, and their families may
2 be facing and create informational materials relating to those issues;

3 (5) in coordination with military installations, the United States
4 Department of Defense, municipalities, and other departments of the state, provide
5 recommendations to the department for improving assistance to military members,
6 veterans, and their families relating to issues including workforce development,
7 employment, physical and behavioral health, education, and access to child care;

8 (6) assist the family members of a military member in obtaining
9 professional licenses, credentials, or employment in the state;

10 (7) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Workforce
11 Development, develop a standard form for the spouse of a military member to
12 complete that details the spouse's skills, education, and training for the purpose of
13 assisting the spouse in finding employment;

14 (8) encourage a municipality with close economic or community ties to
15 a military installation to create a military and veteran family liaison; and

16 (9) provide an annual report to the adjutant general.

17 (c) In this section, "family member" means a person related to a military
18 member by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the military member's
19 household on a permanent basis.

20 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).